



## **Students, Sisters, and Lifelong Friends**

*Beverly A. Johnson*

In the fall of 1965, I began my Bachelor of Education at The University of Akron. Rush season started, and there was a mad dash to join a sorority. Three of my good friends from Firestone High School did it along with me, and we settled on Kappa Kappa Gamma. We became friends with three fellow students who were new pledges and graduates of Buchtel High School, our neighboring football foes. It was a serendipitous occurrence because fifty-three years later we are still in each other's lives.

Like many others of our day, we partied at Schrodgers, the Bucket, and all the Kent bars. We lived through the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, and the killings at Kent. We

attended frat parties, double dated, and reserved Friday nights for “the girls.” We all headed out as future teachers, each on a similar path.

After graduating, we had four weddings in 1969 and two in 1970, where we shared bridesmaids’ dresses. We eventually lived in different places, but we managed, each summer, to share pregnancies, babies, toddlers, and adventures. Having Akron as our home base, we met at picnics, homes, and restaurants to catch up on the year’s events. We watched our children grow and discussed everything from politics to child development. We were blessed with many healthy kids and now with many healthy grandkids, who heard our stories as we buried our time capsule in 2000. Some of us traveled to Europe together. We’ve nursed each other through deaths, divorce, health issues, and the aging process. Although we are not related by blood, we are sisters at heart who always have each other’s best interests in mind, and we carry with us an attitude of fun and frivolity, regardless of time or place.